

BOROUGH OF



GRAVESEND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1955



H. S. DAVIES,
M.D., B.S.(LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955.

THE MAYOR (Councillor Miss A. E. H. JOHNSON, B.E.M., J.P.)

Councillor C. A. WHITE (Chairman)

Councillor H. F. MARGRETT (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman A. G. RAMSAY

Alderman H. DAVIDSON

Alderman J. CAVEY

Councillor S. SCHULTZ

Councillor L. P. SMITH

Councillor J. W. ROBINSON

Councillor D. M. GILBEY

Councillor Mrs. M. O. CREESE, M.B.E.

Councillor H. D. W. WILLIS

Councillor E. W. MASTIN

Councillor Mrs. N. Q. MILTON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

HERBERT S. DAVIES, M.D., B.S., (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

DANIEL DESMOND, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Cork).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

*J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

*K. McINTYRE, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

*J. WILCOCK, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

*D. G. BUSH, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B. (resigned June, 1955)
(two vacancies)

Clerical Staff :

A. H. BAKER, Chief Clerk to Sanitary Inspector.

Miss G. PUTTIFER.

Miss V. NEAVES, Clerk to Medical Officer.

Miss P. BENNETT.

Mrs. J. ALEXANDER.

NOTE: —*Hold Meat and Food Inspection Certificate.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

WOODVILLE TERRACE,

GRAVESEND.

October, 1956.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the public health in Gravesend for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population has now reached 46,390, that is 430 more than the previous year. The relatively high birth rate mentioned in my last report has been maintained, there being 773 live births registered during the year. The crude birth rate for 1955 is 16.66 per 1,000 population. The corrected birth rate becomes 16.16 which compares with 14.9 for the "Smaller Towns" and 15.0 for England and Wales generally. The crude death rate per 1,000 population was 10.69 and the corrected death rate 11.2 which compares with 11.7 for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate was 24.58.

Speaking generally, the health of the town has been good and apart from measles, there has been no serious outbreak of infectious diseases.

The important question of atmospheric pollution has been given careful consideration and the monthly records from the Council's collecting stations are summarised on page 9.

The Council has continued to give priority to the question of housing, and during 1955 the Corporation completed 91 houses.

In conclusion, may I express to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee my appreciation for their continued interest and support throughout the year. I wish also to thank my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. DAVIES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH .

SECTION "A"

Area of the Borough (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,619
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,390
Number of separate inhabited houses estimated (at 31.3.56)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,015
Rateable Value (at 31.3.56)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£387,184
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (actual 31.3.56)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,572
Rates (to 31st March, 1956)—24/10d. in the £.							
Number of Dwelling Houses built during 1955—							

Corporation	Houses	91
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INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT.

The chief industries in the locality are—Paper making, cement, light and marine engineering, cable and telegraph works, printing. A number of men are employed in the Merchant Navy, on river craft, and in dock work.

Unemployment has remained at a low level, approximately 1 per cent of the insured population, but statistics which apply only to the Borough are not available.

REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS.

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	373	372	745
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	15	13	28
						—	—	—
Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	388	385	773
						—	—	—

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population — 16.66.

STILL BIRTHS.

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
						—	—	—
						6	7	13
						—	—	—

Still Birth Rate—i.e., Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births — 16.54
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population — 0.28.

REGISTERED DEATHS.—All causes at all ages — 496.

Males	Females	Total
246	250	496

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population — 10.69.

(The previous year it was 9.05)

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.—Nil.

NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION. (Excess of Births over Deaths)—277.

INFANT DEATHS—under 1 year of age.

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate infants	...	...	...	...	...	8	10	18
Illegitimate infants	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
						—	—	—
					Total	8	11	19
						—	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :-

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	24.58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	24.16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	35.71

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Rates	Gravesend	England and Wales	160 'Smaller Towns' population of 25,000 to 50,000
Birth Rate	16.16	15.0	14.9
Death Rate	11.2	11.7	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	24.58	24.9	25.2
Still Birth Rate	0.28	0.35	0.35

BOROUGH OF GRAVESEND

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR LAST TEN YEARS.

YEAR		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of births	...	...	1025	1029	830	751	760	702	767	768	773
Crude Birth rate (per 1,000 population)		25.4	24.7	19.35	17.36	17.16	15.85	16.95	16.85	16.71	16.66
Number of Deaths	...	...	437	438	461	456	483	488	481	416	496
Crude Death rate (per 1,000 population)		10.83	10.52	10.75	10.54	10.91	11.02	10.36	10.56	9.05	10.69

CAUSES OF DEATH IN GRAVESEND FOR 1955

AS PROVIDED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...		8	1	9
2.	Tuberculosis, Other forms	...	...	...		—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...		—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...		—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...		—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...		—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...		—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...		—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...		3	1	4
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...		8	5	13
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...		16	2	18
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...		—	8	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...		—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...		27	32	59
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...		2	—	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...		2	5	7
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...		32	46	78
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...		44	27	71
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...		1	5	6
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...		27	47	74
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...		4	8	12
22.	Influenza	...	...	...		—	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...		6	8	14
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...		14	13	27
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...		—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...		4	1	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...		2	2	4
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...		3	2	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...		7	—	7
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...		—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...		3	3	6
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...		15	20	35
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...		2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...		14	4	18
35.	Suicide	...	...	...		2	3	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...		—	—	—
Total — All causes						246	250	496

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1955.

DISEASE	Under one year	One and under 3 yrs.	3 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 years and over	Total	Number removed to Hospital
Measles	16	187	241	512	10	1	2	—	—	969	4
Whooping Cough	2	6	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	13	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	2	1	2	4	4	4	18	4
Scarlet Fever	2	1	8	29	12	1	—	—	—	53	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	5	4
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	4
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	1
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	—	13	8	8	5	36	16
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	2
	20	195	250	551	26	21	21	18	12	1114	40

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Site	Measurement of Deposited Matter by Deposit Gauges				Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Instruments S.O.3 (sulphur trioxide) collected per day (Milligrammes)
	Rainfall Inches	Insoluble Deposit (Tons per square mile)	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	

DASHWOOD LANE NURSERIES					
January	2.24	5.44	6.37	11.81	2.42
February	1.30	6.20	10.97	17.18	2.32
March	0.75	7.77	7.70	15.47	1.98
April	0.55	6.20	5.17	11.37	0.84
May	3.33	8.40	8.44	16.84	0.84
June	1.54	7.04	6.44	13.48	1.04
July	0.01	9.27	5.50	14.77	0.59
August	0.72	12.06	7.57	19.63	0.61
September	1.73	9.89	11.27	21.16	0.98
October	3.52	9.97	15.61	25.58	1.66
November	0.46	7.08	8.70	15.79	1.79
December	1.51	7.31	8.67	15.98	1.25
Mean	1.47	8.05	8.53	16.58	1.36

SWIMMING POOL					
January	2.42	12.32	10.64	22.97	1.53
February	1.38	7.75	10.57	18.36	2.91
March	0.79	8.55	6.68	15.23	1.82
April	0.59	7.45	6.04	13.49	1.16
May	3.58	9.66	10.40	20.06	1.18
June	1.66	8.39	7.58	15.97	0.72
July	—	9.26	5.57	14.83	0.71
August	0.63	10.19	7.99	18.18	0.87
September	1.70	10.48	12.15	22.63	1.04
October	3.46	11.13	15.57	26.70	2.00
November	0.44	6.56	8.36	14.91	1.87
December	1.53	8.38	9.33	17.71	1.68
Mean	1.51	9.18	9.24	18.42	1.46

Further details will be found on pages 45, 46 and 47.

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

There are 18 doctors residing in the area who are engaged in general practice.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

On 1st October, 1955, the Bacteriological and Pathological work undertaken for this Local Authority by the Kent County Council, was transferred to the Public Health Laboratory Service maintained by the Medical Research Council. Dr. J. H. C. Walker is the new Director of the Maidstone Laboratory, at present situated at Preston Hall.

The following specimens have been examined :-

A.	(1)	Faeces—Examination for Pathogenic Organisms	5
	(2)	Chocolate—Examination for Pathogenic Organisms	1
		Total	6
B.	(1)	Milk—Turbidity Test	8
	(2)	Water—Public supplies—Bact. Examination	48
		Swimming Pool—Bact. Examination	15
	(3)	Ice Cream—Bacteriological Examination	31
		Total	102

3. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Nine ambulances (6 stretcher and 3 sitting cases) are stationed at the Harden V.C. Memorial Hall, Hall Road, Northfleet. Telephone—Gravesend 5257/8.

4. HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The County Council provides a service free of charge for the attendance on persons whose doctors require them to be nursed in their own homes. The nurse's attendance is normally arranged by the doctor, but the name and address of the appropriate nurse for any particular district is obtainable from the undermentioned District Office of the County Council :-

Arthur Street, Gravesend. (Tel. Gravesend 166).

The following services are provided by the County Council: -

5. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

- (1) Ante-Natal Clinics.
- (2) Infant Welfare Clinics.
- (3) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.
- (4) Dental Clinics.
- (5) Speech Therapy Clinics.

6. MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The County Council arranges for the free attendance of midwives upon patients who are to be confined at home. The name and address of the appropriate midwife for any particular district is usually known to the patient's doctor, but can be obtained from the District Office of the Kent County Council, Arthur Street, Gravesend.

7. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This is a County Service giving domestic help to old people, maternity patients and persons suffering from illness, and other cases of emergency. Application is made to the District Office, Arthur Street, Telephone No. Gravesend 166.

CHEST CLINIC. (South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board).

The Chest Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC. (South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board).

Dr. C. D. Routh is in attendance at the Gravesend Clinic, 22 Cobham Street, at the following times: -

Tuesday

Male — 11-0 a.m. to 1-0 p.m.

Female — 1-0 p.m. to 2-0 p.m.

Saturday

Male & Female 9 a.m. to 10-0 a.m.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL.

The Out-patient Clinics at the Hospital are as follows: -

MONDAY

9-15 a.m.	Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic	*Mr. Golding-Wood
9-30 a.m.	Physiotherapy	*Dr. Sowden
9-30 a.m.	Medical	*Dr. J. Craig
1-30 p.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.C.C.)	Dr. M. F. McDonnell
2-0 p.m.	Fracture Clinic	*Mr. R. H. V. Hafner
2-0 p.m.	Medical	*Dr. Moir

TUESDAY

9-0 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
9-30 a.m.	Skin Clinic	*Dr. Cairns
9-30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.C.C.)	Mr. G. L. Simmons
11-00 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (New Cases)	*Mr. G. L. Simmons
11-30 a.m.	Surgical Clinic	*Mr. M. Landau
3-0 p.m.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Mr. F. S. Horrocks
3-0 p.m.	Gynaecological Clinic	Mr. A. M. Hunter
4-0 p.m.	Chest Clinic	*Dr. H. J. Robinson

WEDNESDAY

9-0 a.m.	Chest Clinic	*Dr. H. J. Robinson
9-30 a.m.	Surgical Clinic	*Mr. B. E. C. Stanley
2-30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic (Old Cases)	*†Dr. J. Pearse
6-0 p.m.	Refill Clinic	*Dr. H. J. Robinson

THURSDAY

9-30 a.m.	Orthopaedic Clinic	*Mr. R. H. V. Hafner
9-30 a.m.	Chest (Refills)	*Dr. H. J. Robinson
9-30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic	*Mr. W. E. Heath
9-30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (Old Cases)	*Mr. G. L. Simmons
1-30 p.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.C.C.)	Mr. G. L. Simmons

FRIDAY

9-0 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
9-30 a.m.	Medical	*Mr. J. Craig
10-15 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	*Mr. R. H. V. Hafner
2-30 p.m.	Surgical Clinic	*Mr. Sol. M. Cohen
2-30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic	*†Dr. S. W. Hardwick
2-30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic (Old Cases)	*†Dr. J. Pearse

*By appointment.

*†By appointment with Almoner.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the administrative arrangements for the Maternity and Child Welfare Services passed from the Borough Council to the Kent County Council.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Notifications of births are sent direct to the County Medical Officer at Maidstone.

The number of live and still births occurring in Gravesend during the year was 761. After correction for those whose usual residence is elsewhere (i.e., 138 transferred "out" and 163 transferred "in") the number properly belonging to the Borough was 786 (773 live births and 13 still births) compared with 782 in the previous year.

PARTICULARS OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN GRAVESEND.

Total No. of live and still births occurring in Gravesend	...	761
No. of live births actually belonging to Gravesend	...	612
No. of still births actually belonging to Gravesend	...	11
No. of live births (non-residents)	...	134
No. of still births (non-residents)	...	4
	—	761

NO. OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN INSTITUTIONS IN GRAVESEND.

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
No. of infants born in Hospital—(residents)	298	7
No. of infants born in Hospital—(non-residents)	114	4
No. of infants born in Nursing Home—(residents)	35	2
No. of infants born in Nursing Home—(non-residents)	17	—

HEALTH VISITORS.

Nurses with special qualifications are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The following Health Visitors are employed in the Gravesend area and can be contacted at their respective welfare centres: -

- Miss B. O. M. Mayer, S.R.N., S.C.M., Windmill Street Welfare Centre.
- Miss M. White, S.R.N., S.C.M., Whitehill Welfare Centre.
- Miss E. M. Kenworthy, S.R.N., S.C.M., "The Nest" Welfare Centre.
- Miss K. Lewis, S.R.N., S.C.M., "The Nest", Welfare Centre.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

Premature infants nursed at home are visited regularly by the Midwives and Health Visitors.

The following special equipment is available for loan at the Welfare Centres : -

Draught-proof cot with detachable lining, suitable warm clothing, hot water bottles, special feeding bottles, thermometer, mucus catheter, baby scales, etc.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The three Welfare Centres in the Borough are Windmill Street (Central), Whitehill (King's Farm Estate), and "The Nest" (Denton and Chalk district).

The sessions are as follows: -

	<i>Windmill Street.</i>	<i>Whitehill.</i>	<i>"The Nest".</i>
MONDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Health Visitors con- sultations; B a b y weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in at- tendance; H e a l t h Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	—
TUESDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Diphtheria Immunisa- tion and Vaccinations	<i>Afternoon</i> Ante-Natal Clinic and M i d w i v e s' Clinic combined.	<i>Morning & Afternoon</i> Speech Therapy Clinic
WEDNESDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Midwives' Clinic.	—	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in at- tendance; H e a l t h Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.
THURSDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Ante-Natal Clinic.	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in at- tendance; H e a l t h Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	—
FRIDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in at- tendance; H e a l t h Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	—	<i>Afternoon</i> Midwives' Clinic.

† Ante Natal Clinic.

† First and third Fridays in each month.

ATTENDANCES AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The attendances at the three Welfare Centres during the year were: -

(a) Individual children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	548
(b) Individual children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	959
(c) Total number of attendances of all children under 5 years				12,027

For the year 1954 the figures were :-

(a) 579.	(b) 1,064.	(c) 11,854.
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LADIES VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE.

The Ladies' Voluntary Committee continue to serve at the three Welfare Centres in the town and their work is greatly appreciated.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Ante-Natal clinics are held once a week at Windmill Street and Whitehill Welfare Centres and once a fortnight at "The Nest" Welfare Centre. A lady doctor is in attendance at each session.

In all, 669 expectant mothers attended the clinics. The total attendances were 2,215 as against 855 in the previous year.

WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINIC.

Married women requiring advice are referred to the Gynaecological Clinic at Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, by their private medical practitioners. This clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons, at 3 p.m.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, children under five years and school children is provided at the Dental Clinic, Manor Road.

The Clinic is open at the following times: -

Monday	
Tuesday	A.M. 9 to 12 noon.
Thursday	
Friday	P.M. 1-30 to 4-30

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

The County Ophthalmic Clinic is held at the Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.

Further details on page 12.

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS—SCHOOL CHILDREN.

These clinics are held at the following times: -

Windmill Street	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
“The Nest”, Denton	Tuesday and Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Whitehill, King’s Farm	Tuesday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF NURSING HOMES.

There are two nursing homes in the Borough.

1. A Nursing Home of fourteen beds—maternity and medical cases. This is governed by Sections 187-195 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
2. Home for Medical Cases, chiefly old people—ten beds. This home which had previously been registered under the above Act is now supervised by the Kent County Council under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF UNREGISTERED HOMES.

1. The Returns from the local Registrar are examined to check the addresses at which births and deaths occur.
2. Health Visitors and the staff are asked to keep a look out for unregistered homes.

MORAL WELFARE—CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

This work is now a function of the Kent County Council. Kendall House, Pelham Road, Gravesend, opened in 1946 by the Rochester Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, has an experienced Church Army Sister in charge. A representative of the Council serves on the Moral Welfare Committee and a grant was made to the Association from the funds available under the Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The Gravesend voluntary Old People’s Welfare Committee which is affiliated to the Kent Council of Social Service, continues to do excellent work. The object of the Committee is to promote and assist the general good of all old people of the Borough.

The four Darby and Joan Clubs are proving very popular and membership is steadily increasing. The activities of the Committee include the following : - Home visiting, meals on wheels service, visits to hospitals, trolley shop, occupational therapy. A vehicle has been purchased and outings have been arranged for the elderly folk. Fifty-eight outings were arranged during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, AND

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

All cases were dealt with successfully by persuasion, and it was not necessary to make use of the above legislation.

SANITARY INSPECTION, HOUSING AND FOOD.

Mr. J. E. Baker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the statistics relating to Sanitary Inspection, Housing and Food Inspection.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

PUBLIC DRINKING SUPPLIES.

Two public water companies supply water to the Borough.

The water has been satisfactory—

(a) in quantity.

(b) in quality.

The water in both supplies is hard and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action.

Twelve dwelling houses are supplied from public mains by means of stand pipes. The remainder of the Borough is supplied direct to houses. The twelve houses in question are scheduled for demolition procedure when the housing situation permits.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION : Forty-eight samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination as follows : -

<i>Supplied by</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Gravesend & Milton Water Co.	37	34	3
Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co.	11	11	0
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 45	<hr/> 3

Included in the foregoing are 12 samples of the Gravesend and Milton Water Company's supply from the Leith Park Road Pumping Station well (untreated) and 12 from the outgoing main (treated).

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Samples taken for chemical analysis were as follows : -

<i>Supplied by</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Gravesend & Milton Water Co.'s supply	3	3	—
Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co.'s supply	1	1	—

Note : Tabulated summaries of all water samples taken and results of examination are shown on pages 41—44.

CORPORATION BATHING POOL.

The Open-air Bathing Pool opened in 1938, has accommodation for 800 bathers. The main pool is 150 feet long by 75 feet wide and has two shallow areas and a diving pit. The diving apparatus includes the following diving boards: - I metre fixed; 1 metre spring ; 3 metre fixed ; 3 metre spring ; and a 5 metre fixed and a chute.

The 400,000 gallons of water in the pool are filtered, aerated, sterilised and heated.

Wide surrounds and large areas are provided for sun-bathing, whilst a spectator's terrace surrounds the site.

On the first floor of the building a Cafe and Spectators' Gallery is provided, affording a splendid view of the whole site.

There is also a Children's Paddling Pool, 50 feet by 50 feet, with its own surround, separated from the main pool by a terrace.

During the 1955 season the following persons used the Pools : -

Bathers and Spectators	...	...	...	...	...	...	104,470
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,483
Season Pass	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,202
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,963
H.M. Forces	...	...	...	...	...	...	523
							<hr/> 136,641 <hr/>

HYGIENIC ARRANGEMENTS.

The Medical Officer of Health has continued to keep the hygienic arrangements at the Pool under supervision. "Breakpoint Chlorination", which was put into operation in 1948 appears to be working efficiently.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Fifteen examinations were made. See tabulated summary on page 44.

SLIPPER BATHS.

The Slipper Baths at the Corporation Bathing Pool were opened in January, 1949.

There are separate sections for males and females—7 baths being allocated to males and 3 to females.

This service is working very satisfactorily and is much appreciated by the residents of the town. The attendances for the year 1955 were as follows : -

Males	...	...	...	12,267
Females	...	...	...	3,211
				<hr/> 15,478 <hr/>

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Council has the duty to enforce certain provisions of Parts I, IV and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Administrative arrangements include the following: -

Part I—Health (General Provisions).

- (1) Registration of all factories.
- (2) Inspection of sanitary conveniences in all factories.
- (3) Inspection with regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories in which mechanical power is not used.

Part IV—Basement Bakehouses.

- (1) The quinquennial examination of basement bakehouses and the renewal or cancellation of Certificates of Suitability.

Part VIII—Home work.

- (1) Examination of lists, supplied to the Council by employers of outworkers in certain specified trades.
- (2) Notification of name and place of employment of any home worker employed outside the Borough to the Council in whose district his employment is situated.
- (3) Inspection of premises in which the outworker pursues his occupation.

The provisions of the Act, so far as they affect Local Authorities, have been enforced. The following table shows the work carried out: -

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of		
			Written Notices	Verbal Notices	Notices Complied with
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	14	—	1	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	112	52	—	4	4
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	1	—	—	—	—
	<u>149</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

2. Cases in which defects were found :-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork). ...	—	—	—	—	—
	5	5	—	3	—

1. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend Council 1955 (under 1 (c) of Sec. 110 Factories Act 1937) ...	5
2. Total number of outworkers notified by Gravesend Council to other Councils (under 2 of Sec. 110 Factories Act, 1937) ...	2
3. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend by other Councils	5
4. Total number of outworkers employed in Gravesend ...	8
5. Total number of inspections of work places (under 111 (1) Factories Act 1937) ...	—
6. List of scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Gravesend :-	
Wearing apparel, making, etc. ...	8

BASEMENT BAKEHOUSES.

Part IV of the Act.

Certificates of Suitability are in operation in respect of four basement bake-houses.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

Dwelling house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,166
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,581
Visits to other premises :-								
Atmospheric Pollution Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cooked meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Dining rooms and cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Factories (with power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Factories (without power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Fish frying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Meat depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Provision shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Public house conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,783
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shops (Shops Act provisions)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Shops (food inspection)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	290
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,852
<hr/>								
Total visits of all kinds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,621
<hr/>								

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

						<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
(1)	In respect of dwelling houses :-						
	Number served	...	...	...	...	536	48
	Complied with						
	(a) By owners or occupiers	...	...	...	...	532	43
	(b) By local authority in default	...	...	...	...	—	3
(2)	In respect of other premises :-						
	Number served	...	...	...	...	18	—
	Complied with	...	...	...	...	18	—

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Animals in unfit state	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	379
Cesspool covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney Stacks—repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
new pots provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coppers—repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness—damp wallplaster removed and reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
external walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
external walls repointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
external walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Rainwater pipes etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dirty houses cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Persons cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfestation of premises for vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage—drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
inspection chambers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
soil and ventilation pipes, new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
gullies and/or grids provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Light or ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks—new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Stoves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Steps and thresholds repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Water supply—water pipes, etc. repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water closets—new constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
repaired and/or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
new pans provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
seats renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Windows—renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
sashcords provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
sills renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
sash weights provided or adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Other matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Shops have been kept under observation during the year.

One shopkeeper was prosecuted under section 47 of the Act for selling provisions on a Sunday. He was fined five shillings.

THE RAG FLOCK AND* OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

It is the duty of the Council to enforce the provisions of this Act.

These duties include the following : -

1. The inspection and registration of premises where filling materials are used in activities laid down in the Act.
2. The inspection and licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored.
3. The inspection of records to be kept under the Act.
4. Where considered necessary the taking and testing of samples of filling materials.

The Act is intended to provide a comprehensive measure for the adequate control of the manufacture and use of filling materials and to ensure that high standards of cleanliness are maintained.

Two premises are registered within the district and these have been kept under supervision.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

It is the duty of the Council to enforce the provisions of this Act.

The Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of pet shops, the main purposes being the enforcement of the Protection of Animals Act in their application to the business of selling pets.

Eight premises are licensed within the district and these have been kept under supervision, 30 inspections being made.

CESSPOOL AND PAIL SYSTEM.

There are still approximately 750 premises in the Eastern and Southern parts of the Borough where the drainage discharges into cesspools.

The Health Department is responsible for this work but the actual emptying of cesspools is carried out on behalf of the Department by the Borough Engineer's Department, a combined road gully and cesspool emptying machine being used for the purpose.

During the year 12,048 tons of sewage were removed, requiring 938 emptyings, compared with 11,604 tons requiring 916 emptyings the previous year.

Approximately 16 pails are in use in the Borough, of these 8 are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department and the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

(a) COLLECTION.

Ten Shelvoke & Drewry freighters are used for this service.

One of these vehicles with driver and one loader is also employed on the collection of trade refuse from business establishments, collections being made more frequently than in the case of ordinary domestic refuse.

Refuse collected during the year amounted to 13,329 tons, compared with 13,753 tons the previous year, these amounts being ascertained by test weighing.

(b) DISPOSAL.

All refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on land at Denton marshes, an area of approximately 44 acres in extent.

A muledozer tractor is used for levelling, covering and consolidating the refuse.

SALVAGE.

An Austin truck is used for the separate collection of waste paper, and four trailers are also used with refuse collection vehicles for the purpose.

Salvaged materials collected and sold during the year were as follows: -

<i>Materials</i>	<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>		
	T.	C.	Q	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	496	14	2	0	4,037	0	5
Metals		1	3	12	10	10	10
Textiles and String	1	4	0	23	11	13	9
	498	0	2	7	£4,059	5	0

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Disinfection of rooms and bedding where necessary for the prevention of infectious diseases was carried out at 61 premises.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Health Department is responsible for the staffing and cleansing of public conveniences in the Borough and the collection of receipts therefrom.

One underground convenience, with male and female sections is situated in Parrock Street and includes washing facilities. Male and female attendants are employed at this convenience.

One convenience for females, provided with attendants and washing facilities is situated on the Gordon Promenade, but is only open during the summer months.

One convenience for females and one for males are situated in Fort Gardens. An attendant is employed at the females' convenience during entertainments in the summer.

Other small public conveniences, 8 for men, 3 for women and 2 for children, are situated in various parts of the Borough. These are without washing facilities or attendants.

Conveniences at 14 licensed premises are also cleansed by Health Department employees in consideration of the fact that they are available for the use of the general public at all times.

Conveniences attached to other licensed premises have also been kept under supervision.

RODENT CONTROL.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 it is the duty of the Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice, and in particular: -

- (a) from time to time to carry out such inspections as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid,
- (b) to destroy rats and mice on land of which they are the occupier and otherwise to keep such land as far as practicable free from rats and mice,
- (c) to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers of land under the following provisions of this part of this Act, and to carry out such operations as are authorised by those provisions.

All infested premises notified to the Health Department or discovered during the course of inspection during the year were dealt with. The cost of disinfestation at business premises by the Council's Rodent Officer is charged to the occupiers, but the work at dwelling houses is carried out free.

The following report summarises the work carried out by the Rodent Officer during the year 1955: -

Infested premises under treatment at the end of 1954	...	15
Premises found to be infested during 1955	... ..	293
Premises treated and cleared	... ..	291
Premises still under observation at the end of year	...	17
Total number of visits	... ..	3,552

In addition to the above, two maintenance treatments of the sewers for the destruction of rats were carried out.

In the first treatment 627 manholes were treated and the results showed infestation in 31.

In the second treatment 124 manholes were treated and the results showed infestation in 23.

SECTION “D”

HOUSING.

Housing is still the great problem in health work. As in previous years the Council have pursued this matter with the utmost vigour. They have built the maximum number of houses allocated by the Ministry.

Each applicant for accommodation receives careful consideration and the Housing Selection Sub-Committee give special priority in urgent cases. I am glad to express my gratitude for the way in which they have considered the families I have put before them.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information : -

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1955

By Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
No. contemplated, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
No. contemplated, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—

(1)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	1,142
(2)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	2,677
(3)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	142

2. Remedy of defects—

(1)	After informal action by Local authority	...	...	...	...	118
(2)	After formal notice under Public Health Acts					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	24
(b)	By Local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil	

3. Demolition and Closure Procedure—

No demolition or closing orders were made during the year and no houses were demolished or closed under the Housing Acts.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954—

Number of applications made for certificates of disrepair	...	...	13
Number of applications granted	...	...	7
Number of applications rejected	...	...	6
Number of applications made for revocation of certificates	...	...	8
Number of certificates revoked	...	...	8

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS—

Dustbins provided as a result of—

(a) Informal action by Local authority	...	...	...	357
(b) Formal action—				
(1) By owners or occupiers	...	...	...	19
(2) By local authority in default	...	...	...	3

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Visits have been made to all premises reported as being overcrowded or as being otherwise unsuitable for the health of the occupants. The following is a summary of the action taken and subsequent results, since 1945 : -

	1945 to 1954	1955	Total
1. Reported to Housing Dept. as—			
(a) Overcrowded	205	3	208
(b) Not overcrowded but otherwise unsuitable	185	10	195
2. Reported to other authorities as—			
(a) Overcrowded	3	—	3
(b) Not overcrowded but otherwise unsuitable	7	—	7
(c) Not overcrowded or otherwise unsuitable	3	—	3
3. Inspected but no action considered necessary	183	11	194
4. Conditions found on re-inspection to have been abated at—			
(a) Overcrowded premises	180	2	182
(b) Premises where conditions were otherwise unsuitable	145	4	149

Included in No. 4 were 59 cases where members of the families concerned were suffering from tuberculosis and 10 from other illness.

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of food premises is being maintained, and the following is a summary of the visits made and results of inspection :-

		<i>Number of premises</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>	<i>Number of notices Served. Complied with.</i>	
Bakehouses	...	13	9	—	—
Butchers	...	37	115	1	1
Bakers & confectioners	...	34	27	—	—
Cooked meat shops	...	14	13	—	—
Dairies and milkshops	...	72	127	—	—
Dining rooms and cafes	...	66	122	5	5
Fish frying establishments	...	17	16	3	3
Fishmongers	...	30	67	—	—
Greengrocers	...	91	231	1	1
Ice cream premises	...	123	81	—	—
Meat Depots	...	1	67	—	—
Provision Dealers	...	139	183	1	1
		<hr/> 637	<hr/> 1058	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 11

Note—Where premises carry on more than one type of business they are recorded under each appropriate type.

Forty-five premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, and 17 for the preparation and sale of fried fish.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are no dairy farms in the Borough. Dairies other than dairy farms and milk distributors are registered by local authorities and there are now on the register 2 dairies and 77 distributors.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

One hundred and eighty-two samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and the following is an analysis of the results obtained: -

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>		<i>Results</i>	
Pasteurised	128	Methylene Blue Test	— Satisfactory	72
			Unsatisfactory	1
		Phosphatase Test	— Satisfactory	55
			Unsatisfactory	0
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	46	Methylene Blue Test	— Satisfactory	24
			Unsatisfactory	0
		Phosphatase Test	— Satisfactory	21
			Unsatisfactory	1
Sterilised	8	Turbidity Test	— Satisfactory	8
			Unsatisfactory	0

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 TO 1954.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 TO 1953.

Licences issued under these Regulations were as follows :-

“Tuberculin Tested”	Dealer’s Licences	...	...	...	...	5
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	4
“Pasteurised”	Pasteurisers Licences	...	...	...	...	2
	Dealer’s Licences	...	...	...	...	14
“Sterilised”	Dealer’s Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	4
	Dealer’s Licences	...	...	...	...	68
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	3

ICE CREAM.

One hundred and twenty-one premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the sale of ice cream, and 1 for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. Eighty-one inspections were made in 1955.

Twenty-six samples of ice cream and 3 “Ice lollies” were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :-

						No. of Samples
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	21
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	8
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	—
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	—
						29

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 192.

The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to 1954 relating to humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 8.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

				Cattle		Sheep		Pigs	Horses
				Excluding Cows	Calves	and Lambs			
Number killed	...	...	...	150	44	25	183	1177	—
Number inspected	...	...	...	150	44	25	183	1177	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	7	18	—	—	9	—

		Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	4.67	40.91	—	—	0.85	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... ..	4	6	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	2.67	13.64	—	—	0.08	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned		—	—	—	—	—	—

CONDEMNED FOOD.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption—

(a) As a result of inspection at Slaughterhouse—

6 Bovine heads & tongues (tuberculosis)	1 Bovine spleen (abscesses)
3 Bovine livers (tuberculosis)	1 Bovine skirt (abscesses)
4 Bovine lungs (tuberculosis)	1 Pig carcase and offal (dropsical)
2 Bovine mesenteric fats (tuberculosis)	7 Pigs' heads and tongues (tuberculosis)
3 Bovine livers (abscesses)	3 Pigs' livers (cirrhosis)
16 Bovine livers (flukes)	1 Pigs' Liver (flukes)
1 Bovine liver (necrosis)	1 Pig's Lungs (congestion)
3 Bovine livers (cirrhosis)	5 Pigs' lungs (pneumonia)
1 Bovine head and tongue (actinomycosis)	

Total weight 613 lbs.

(b) other carcase meat and offal—

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef (bone taint)	583	Pork (unsound)	20
Beef (unsound)	144	Pigs' liver (unsound)	120
Veal (unsound)	150	Pigs' plucks (unsound)	128
Bovine liver (unsound)	483	Pigs' kidneys (unsound)	56
Lamb (unsound)	30		
Lamb (abcesses)	14		

Total weight 1,728 lbs.

(c) Miscellaneous (unsound)—

	lbs.		lbs.
Rabbit	3	Sausages	6
Poultry	39	Bacon	25
Cheese	138	Black pudding	22
Butter	35	Sundries	50
Total weight 318 lbs.			

(d) Tinned and bottled foods (unsound)—

	lbs.		lbs.
Meat	1886	Milk	710
Fruit	1285	Cream	30
Vegetables	1019	Soup	37
Fish	63	Fish paste	15
Syrup	130	Miscellaneous	53
Total weight 5,228 lbs.			

TOTAL APPROXIMATE WEIGHTS—

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.
Carcase meat and offal ...	1	0	3	17
Miscellaneous		2	3	10
Tinned and bottled foods	2	6	2	20
	3	10	1	19

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Where possible, condemned food was used for animal feeding, otherwise it was taken to the Council's controlled refuse tip and buried.

PROSECUTION.

A trader was prosecuted under the Food & Drugs Act 1938 for selling a meat and egg pie containing maggots. The defendants were fined ten pounds with four guineas costs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and submitted to the Public Analyst were as follows :-

						<i>Number of</i>	
						<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Almonds, ground	...	...	...	...	...		1
Almond oil	...	...	...	...	...		1
Almond flavouring	...	...	...	...	...		1
Angelica	...	...	...	...	...		1
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...		1
Blancmange	...	...	...	...	...		2
Boracic ointment	...	...	...	...	...		1
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Camphorated oil	...	...	...	...	...		1
Castor oil	...	...	...	...	...		1
Christmas pudding	...	...	...	...	...		1
Citrus peel	...	...	...	...	...		1
Cod liver oil	...	...	...	...	...		1
Coffee essence	...	...	...	...	...		1
Curry powder	...	...	...	...	...		1
Custard powder	...	...	...	...	...		2
Dripping	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Eucalyptus oil	...	...	...	...	...		1
Fish paste	...	...	...	...	...		1
Flour	...	...	...	...	...		2
Friars balsam	...	...	...	...	...		1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Glacé cherries	...	...	...	...	...		1
Glaubers salt	...	...	...	...	...		1
Glycerine	...	...	...	...	...		1
Gravy salt	...	...	...	...	...		1
Herbs	...	...	...	...	...		1
Honeycomb mould	...	...	...	...	...		1
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...		4
Ice "lollies"	...	...	...	...	...		4
Iodine	...	...	...	...	...		1
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...		2
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Lemon flavouring	...	...	...	...	...		2
Lentils	...	...	...	...	...		1
Luncheon meat	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...		2
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	...		1
Meat paste	...	...	...	...	...		2
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	42	6
Minced beef	...	...	...	...	...	2	

							<i>Number of</i>	
							<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Olive oil	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Pepper	...	...	...	...	...	...		2
Rum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Salad cream	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Semolina	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Soup powder	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Spice ...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Sponge mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Suet ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Tapioca	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Tea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Vanilla flavouring	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Veal, jellied	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Zinc ointment	...	...	...	...	...	...		2
							<hr/> 66	<hr/> 74

All the samples were found to be genuine with the exception of one sample of zinc ointment, which was two per cent deficient in zinc oxide. A subsequent sample taken from the same source was reported to be genuine.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND "OTHER DISEASES"

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifiable infectious diseases were recorded: -

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	969
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	13
Tuberculosis—						
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	36
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	18
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	53
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	7
Acute Poliomyelitis—						
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	2
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total						1,114

A table showing other particulars is given on page 8.

There were no cases of Smallpox or Diphtheria.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Patients needing institutional accommodation for treatment or isolation were sent to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

The other arrangements include the following: -

- (a) Ophthalmic Neonatorum—Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) Smallpox—The River Hospital (Long Reach) Dartford.
- (c) Tuberculosis—Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, and other hospitals and sanatoria arranged by the Chest Physicians.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This work is under the control of the Kent County Council and the following arrangements are in operation: -

1. Immunisations are carried out at special sessions at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics.
2. Immunisations on behalf of the Local Health Authority are carried out by General Practitioners at their surgeries.
3. Notices are sent to every infant at the age of 8 months.
4. The Health Visitors follow up all cases in which there is no record of the injections having been given.

The diphtheria immunisation statistics for the year are as follows: -

During the year 473 children under fifteen years of age were immunised for the first time—455 children under five years and 18 over five years of age.

Fifteen children under five years and 216 children over five years of age were given re-inforcing injections.

The total number of children resident in the Borough under the age of fifteen years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1941).

			<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5 and under 15 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number immunised	...	...	1,884	4,394	6,278
Percentage immunised	...	...	45.1	67.6	58.8

SMALLPOX PREVENTION.

VACCINATION.

When the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation the Vaccination Acts were repealed and infant vaccination ceased to be compulsory.

Vaccinations carried out during the year were as follows: -

			<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary Vaccinations	...	...	268	194	8	20	490
Re-vaccinations	...	...	3	5	28	75	111

TUBERCULOSIS.

Close co-operation has been maintained between the Health Department and the Chest Physicians.

DIAGNOSIS.

The Chest Clinic is provided at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital where Patients are seen every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

STATISTICS—

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES.

In 1955, 39 fresh cases were notified. The following table gives comparative particulars over the last ten years: -

<i>Year</i>		<i>Estimated Population of Registrar General</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946	...	40,340	45	9	54
1947	...	41,630	75	8	83
1948	...	42,890	48	7	55
1949	...	43,250	82	10	92
1950	...	44,290	65	9	74
1951	...	44,280	54	1	55
1952	...	45,260	77	3	80
1953	...	45,530	48	3	51
1954	...	45,960	57	6	63
1955	...	46,390	36	3	39

The sources from which the notifications of tuberculosis were received :-

Chest Physicians	...	...	...	...	28
Private Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	...	3
Hospitals and Institutions	...	...	...	...	8

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of our 39 new cases :-

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0-1	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	—	—	—
5-10	1	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	1
15-20	5	3	—	—
20-25	2	3	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	—
35-45	2	4	—	1
45-55	3	1	—	—
55-65	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	3	2	1	—
	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 2

OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS.

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Builder's Supervisor	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Bus Driver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cement Loader	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cleaner	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Deckhand	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Decorator	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Draughtsman	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Electrician	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Electric Truck Driver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Engineer	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Factory Worker	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Fitter's Mate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Housewife	...	...	...	...	...	—	9
Hospital Sister	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Labourer	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Reelerman's Assistant	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Scholar	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Seaman	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Shop Assistant	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Children under five years of age	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
No occupation	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
						<hr/> 22	<hr/> 17

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

There were 9 deaths registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This gives a death rate of .19 per 1,000 population for tuberculosis.

The following table compares the figures for 1955 with those of previous years, and shows the decline in the death rate for pulmonary tuberculosis since 1947 :-

Year.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1946	16	.37	2	.05	.42
1947	24	.57	2	.04	.62
1948	23	.54	2	.05	.58
1949	24	.55	2	.05	.60
1950	14	.32	—	—	.32
1951	11	.25	2	.04	.29
1952	11	.24	1	.02	.26
1953	11	.24	1	.02	.26
1954	9	.19	2	.04	.23
1955	9	.19	—	—	.19

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

The names of 24 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons: -

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Left the District			...	...	...	...	8
Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lost Sight of	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diagnosis not Confirmed			...	...	...	...	1
							24

Five hundred and eighty persons remained on the Register at the 31st December, 1955. They consist of the following :-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	313	226	539
Non-Pulmonary	18	23	41
	331	249	580

ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL AND SANATORIA.

Thirty-nine patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted during the year. There has been a continued improvement in obtaining early admission to hospital and sanatoria, and the delay in obtaining admission for patients needing Thoracic Surgery has been considerably reduced.

During the year there has been an increase in the number of contacts examined at the Children's Clinic. Chemo-therapy has again played a large part in the domiciliary treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

A substantial number of children have been vaccinated with B.C.G.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Dr. Routh, the Medical Officer in charge of the Gravesend Clinic, has kindly supplied the following statistics: -

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>New Patients—Gravesend—</i>								
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	14	13	27
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	47	7	54
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
						63	22	85
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total No. of Patients (new) from all areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
No. of attendances of Gravesend Patients	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	435
Total No. of attendances—all areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,415

Discharged cured (all districts) : -

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	22	12	34
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	121	16	137
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
						143	29	172
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Defaulted after completion of treatment and before 3 months (Gravesend)

								<i>Males</i>
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

CLEANLINESS, GOOD HEALTH AND ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors have been active in their educative work in regard to cleanliness and freedom from vermin.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The work of disinfection of Council houses is carried out by the Local Authority, infested rooms being sprayed with an insecticide.

Premises belonging to private owners are also disinfested on request and the cost of the work is charged to the persons concerned.

Particulars of action taken during 1955 :-

			<i>Council houses</i>	<i>Other houses</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of houses found to be infested	...		11	13	24
Number of houses disinfested	...	...	11	13	24

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, situated in Swan Yard, provides facilities for six bodies and there is a well equipped post-mortem room.

During the year, 89 bodies were received and 89 post-mortem examinations performed.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

H.M. Coroner has kindly supplied the following information: -

Total number of inquests	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Number of post-mortems without inquests	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Verdicts	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Accidental deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Found drowned	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other verdicts	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

	Date taken	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at :		B. coli (presumptive) per 100 ml.	Faecal B. coli per 100 ml.	Remarks
		37°C	22°C			
1. GRAVESEND & MILTON WATER Co.'s SUPPLY. (a) Leith Park Road Well (untreated)	13-1-55	0	10	Absent	.	Good water.
	17-2-55	2	254	Absent		No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	17-3-55	0	13	Absent		Good water.
	21-4-55	0	42	Absent		No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	19-5-55	1	1	Absent		Good water.
	16-6-55	0	10	Absent		Good water.
	14-7-55	1	48	Absent 3	Absent	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	19-8-55	3	6	Absent		Good water.
	15-9-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	20-10-55	350			None	Unsatisfactory.
	17-11-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	8-12-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.
(b) Leith Park Road Outgoing main (treated)	13-1-55	6	0	Absent		No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	17-2-55	1	2	Absent		Good water.
	17-3-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	21-4-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	19-5-55	0	248	Absent		Count high for treated water.
	16-6-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	14-7-55	5	1	Absent 2	Absent	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	19-8-55	4	14	Absent		No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	15-9-55	0	0			Highly satisfactory.
	20-10-55	20			None	Unsatisfactory.
	17-11-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	8-12-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

	Date taken	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at :		B. coli (presumptive) per 100 ml.	Faecal B. coli per 100 ml.	Remarks
		37°C	22°C			
(c) Domestic Supplies (treated)	13-1-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	17-2-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	17-3-55	1	0	Absent		Good water.
	21-4-55	0	1	Absent		Good water.
	19-5-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	16-6-55	0	4	Absent		Good water.
	14-7-55	1	13	Absent		Good water.
	19-8-55	98	144	180	25	Evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	24-8-55	0	4	Absent		Good water.
	24-8-55	0	1	Absent		Good water.
	20-10-55	0	0	Absent		Highly satisfactory.
	17-11-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	8-12-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.
2. HIGHAM & HUNDRED OF Hoo Co.'s SUPPLY. Domestic Supplies (treated)	13-1-55	1	0	Absent		No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	17-2-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	17-3-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	21-4-55	0	7	Absent		Good water.
	19-5-55	0	414	Absent		Count high for treated water.
	16-6-55	0	7	Absent		Good water.
	14-7-55	0	0	Absent		Good water.
	19-8-55	43	2	Absent		No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	20-10-55	0	0	Absent		Highly satisfactory.
	17-11-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	8-12-55			None	None	Highly satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF DRINKING WATER

<i>Date taken</i>	<i>Domestic premises St. Patrick's Gardens</i>	<i>Hydrant No. 1 Patrick's Gardens</i>	<i>Hydrant No. 2 Patrick's Gardens</i>	<i>Domestic premises Dobson Road</i>	<i>Domestic premises Dobson Road</i>
	18-8-55	5-10-55	5-10-55	21-10-55	21-10-55
Appearance	Faint white turbidity	Cloudy	Cloudy	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None	None	None	None
Chlorine in Chlorides	14	16	16	18	18
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.5	4.8	4.8	3.3	3.3
Saline ammonia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil	0.25	0.25	0.024	0.024
43 Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.08	0.16	0.20	0.12	0.12
Hardness, total	254	260	260	238	238
Hardness, permanent	21	20	22	35	35
Hardness, temporary	233	240	238	203	203
Total solid matter	327	302	305	302	302
Microscopical examination	Some mineral and organic fragments	Deposit of iron oxide and sand	Deposit of iron oxide and sand	Very slight deposit of mineral and organic fragments including trace of iron	A brown deposit consisting almost entirely of iron oxide and a trace of organic matter

Remarks : All the samples were of good organic purity, free from sewage percolation.

NOTE—The numerical results are expressed in parts per million.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BATHING POOL WATER

<i>Date taken</i>	<i>Where taken</i>	<i>No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at :</i>		<i>B. coli per 100 ml.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
		<i>37°C</i>	<i>22°C</i>		
6-6-55	Deep end	3	13	Absent	Good water.
	Shallow end	29	1	1	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	Paddling pool	0	0	Absent	Good water.
4-7-55	Deep end	0	3	Absent	Good water.
	Shallow end	0	71	Absent	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	Paddling pool	13	0	Absent	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
25-7-55	Deep end	0	0	Absent	Good water.
	Shallow end	0	1	Absent	Good water.
	Paddling pool	0	0	Absent	Good water.
15-8-55	Deep end	5	0	Absent	Good water.
	Shallow end	0	0	Absent	Good water.
	Paddling pool	0	0	Absent	Good water.
1-9-55	Deep end	0	14	Absent	Good water.
	Shallow end	0	0	Absent	Good water.
	Paddling pool	4	18	Absent	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Data extracted from the Analysts monthly reports was also supplied to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research up to March 1955 and to the Thameside Joint Committee from April, 1955, in the form shown in the following tables.

See notes at end of tables for details of abbreviations.

Site : Dashwood Lane, Nurseries.

Month	Rain mm.	pH. value	Deposit (grams per 100 square metres)								
			TWIM	S/CS2	Ash	OCM	TWSM	T Ca	Cl	SO4	TS
1954											
Oct.	33	7.1	157	1	110	46	214	50	18	77	371
Nov	85	6.4	292	4	226	61	472	102	68	196	764
Dec.	33	6.6	229	1	173	55	303	61	54	99	532
1955											
Jan.	57	6.5	213	3	160	51	250	50	39	94	463
Feb.	33	6.9	243	8	182	54	430	109	38	194	674
March	19	6.9	303	3	246	55	302	71	35	122	605
Total	260	40.4	1437	20	1097	322	1971	443	252	782	3409
Mean	43	6.7	239	3	183	53	328	74	42	130	568

April	14	7.10	243	1	194	49	203	47	21	85	446
May	84	6.90	330	3	239	88	331	60	43	112	661
June	39	8.10	276	3	205	68	252	55	20	77	528
July.	00.39	—	364	3	269	92	216	37	13	73	579
Aug.	18	7.60	473	2	349	121	297	64	20	110	770
Sept.	43.94	7.26	3.88	3	297	87	442	94	30	151	830
Total	199.33	36.96	2074	15	1553	505	1741	357	147	608	3814
Mean	33.22	6.16	3.45	2	259	84	290	59	24	101	636

Site—Swimming Pool.

Month	Rain mm.	pH. value	Deposit (grams per 100 square metres)								
			TWIM	S/CS2	Ash	OCM	TWSM	T ^T Ca	Cl	SO4	TS
1954											
Oct.	32	7.3	218	1	162	54	246	58	21	86	464
Nov.	88	6.6	361	4	283	74	584	121	87	238	945
Dec.	35	6.7	296	4	225	67	416	86	71	143	712
1955											
Jan.	61	6.4	483	4	357	122	417	80	67	151	900
Feb.	35	6.7	304	3	217	84	415	96	43	178	720
Mar.	20	6.7	336	5	258	72	262	57	38	104	598
Total	271	40.4	1998	21	1502	473	2340	498	327	900	4339
Mean	45	6.7	333	3	250	79	390	83	54	150	723

April	15	6.8	292	4	212	76	237	51	20	78	528
May	91	6.8	379	4	270	105	408	76	57	133	787
June	42	7.9	329	—	224	105	297	66	28	104	626
July	—	—	363	3	175	186	218	43	16	63	582
Aug.	16	7.48	400	4	274	121	313	57	50	101	713
Sept.	43.16	7.50	411	4	303	104	476	61	45	138	887
Total	207.16	36.48	2174	19	1458	697	1949	354	216	617	4123
Mean	34.53	6.08	362	3	243	116	325	59	33	103	687

Abbreviations :

TWIM—Total water insoluble matter.

S/CS2—Soluble carbon bisulphade.

OCM—Other combustible material.

TWSM—Total water soluble matter.

Ca—Calcium.

Cl—Chloride.

SO4—Sulphur dioxide.

TS—Total solids.

Sulphur Dioxide (P602 method)

Site	SO3 (sulphur trioxide collected per day) (milligrammes)							
	1954	Nov.	Dec.	1955	Feb.	Mch.	Sum	Mean
	Oct.			Jan.				
Dashwood Nurseries	0.65	1.21	1.64	2.42	2.32	1.98	10.22	1.70
Swimming Pool	1.00	1.86	2.43	1.53	2.91	1.82	11.55	1.92

	1955	May	Jun	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Sum	Mean
	Apl.							
Dashwood Nurseries	0.84	0.84	1.04	0.59	0.61	0.98	4.90	0.82
Swimming Pool	1.16	1.18	0.72	0.71	0.87	1.04	5.68	0.95

